

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A ventilation pipe protector comprising:

a tubular sleeve having a sleeve outside diameter smaller than a ventilation pipe inside diameter, ~~the sleeve comprising an inlet end~~ said tubular sleeve for receiving a gas from said ventilation pipe;

a hollow head ~~attached to an end of the sleeve opposite the inlet end to allow the gas to flow from the sleeve into the head, the head~~ having a head outside diameter larger than ~~[[the]]~~ said sleeve outside diameter and comprising a plurality of passageways sized to allow egress of the gas from ~~[[the]]~~ said hollow head and to prevent ingress of animals and debris into ~~[[the]]~~ said hollow head ~~[[.]]~~ ; and

a neck portion coupling said hollow head to said tubular sleeve, said neck portion having a transitioning outside diameter from said head outside diameter adjacent said hollow head to said sleeve outside diameter adjacent said tubular sleeve, said neck portion contacting a top opening of said ventilation pipe;

whereby said transitioning outside diameter of said neck portion allows for said neck portion to fit to a variety of ventilation pipe openings.

2. (Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said hollow head comprises a convex shaped end opposite an end of the head attached to the sleeve.

3. (Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said hollow head comprises a ~~peaked~~ an apex end opposite an end of ~~[[the]]~~ said hollow head attached to the sleeve.

4. (Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said head outside diameter is larger than a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

5. (Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said tubular sleeve comprises a plurality of passageways sized to allow the gas to flow from the ventilation pipe into ~~[[the]]~~ said tubular sleeve.

6. (Amended) The ventilation-pipe protector of claim 1, further comprising a washer disposed around [[the]] said tubular sleeve and abutting [[the]] said hollow head, the washer comprising a washer inside diameter larger than [[the]] said sleeve outside diameter and smaller than [[the]] said head outside diameter, and [[an]] a washer outside diameter larger than [[the]] a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

7. (Amended) A ventilation pipe protector comprising:

a tubular sleeve having a sleeve outside periphery smaller than a ventilation pipe inside periphery, ~~the sleeve comprising an inlet end~~ said tubular sleeve for receiving a gas from said ventilation pipe; [[and]]

~~a hollow head attached to an end of the sleeve opposite the inlet end to allow the gas to flow from the sleeve into the head, the head having a head outside periphery larger than [[the]] said sleeve outside periphery and comprising a plurality of passageways sized to allow egress of the gas from [[the]] said hollow head and to prevent ingress of animals and debris into [[the]] said hollow head [[.]] ; and~~

a neck portion coupling said hollow head to said tubular sleeve, said neck portion having a transitioning outside periphery from said head outside periphery adjacent said hollow head to said sleeve outside periphery adjacent said tubular sleeve, said neck portion contacting a top opening of said ventilation pipe;

whereby said transitioning outside periphery of said neck portion allows for said neck portion to fit to a variety of ventilation pipe openings.